

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6-10 are pending in this application. Claims 2-5 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 6-10 have been amended to better clarify the present invention to reflect the use of the system controller that controls system components (discussed, for example, at page 5, lines 6-7, of the specification), including the servo circuit 13 (discussed, for example, at page 7, lines 18-20, of the specification), and provides a wobble enable signal (discussed, for example, at page 5, lines 6-7, of the specification), all without the introduction of any new matter.

The outstanding Office Action presented a rejection of Claims 1 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Inokuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,952, Inokuchi).

Before considering the outstanding anticipation rejection, it is once again believed that a brief review of the present invention would be helpful. In this respect, the present invention is directed to a recording/reproducing apparatus and method for recording and reproducing data on and from an optical disk medium that has an address data area with embossed pits and a recording/reproducing area with a wobbling spiral groove. A wobble-signal is extracted from the signal the head obtains from the wobbling spiral groove and provided to a PLL circuit to produce a sync signal therefrom. A system controller, like disclosed system controller 13, for example, produces a wobble enable signal in addition to providing recording/reproducing apparatus control including directly controlling a servo circuit, like servo circuit 18, for example, performing a seek operation to move the head of the recording/reproducing apparatus so as to jump tracks of the optical disk. The wobble enable signal is provided by the system

controller during any wobble signal disturbance period to the PLL circuit. This system controller provided wobble enable signal causes the PLL circuit to provide an unchanging sync signal during any of these wobble signal disturbance periods.

Turning to the rejection of Claims 1 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Inokuchi, it is noted that independent Claims 1, 6, and 9 clearly patentably define over Inokuchi because they all require that the system controller must produce a PLL circuit with a wobble enable signal to control this PLL circuit to provide an unchanging synch signal not subject to wobble disturbance conditions during any wobble signal disturbance period. In addition, independent Claims 1, 6, and 9 specify that the system controller must provide control of the recording/reproducing apparatus including the control of a servo circuit controlling a seek operation to move the head of the recording/reproducing apparatus so as to jump tracks of the optical disk.

While Inokuchi teaches controlling a PLL circuit to provide an unchanging sync signal during a wobble signal disturbance period, this control is performed under control of abnormal jump detector circuitry 22 that detects a low level of the digitized wobble signal of FIG. 5B at each of the rising edges (d)-7, (d)-9, and (d)-11. This abnormal jump detector circuitry 22 is clearly not reasonably read as a system controller or system controller means that controls components of a recording/reproducing apparatus including a servo circuit or servo circuit means thereof that in turn can move a head to a desired address position on an associated optical disk `circuitry separate from any system controller, much less a system controller like the ones in independent Claims 1, 6, and 9 that must also provide recording/reproducing apparatus control including direct control of a servo circuit performing a seek operation to

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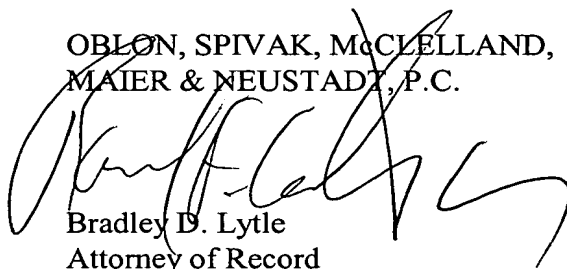
move the head of the recording/reproducing apparatus so as to jump tracks of the optical disk.

As Claim 7 depends on Claim 1, Claim 8 depends on Claim 6, and Claim 10 depends on Claim 9, these dependent claims are also believed to patentably define over Inokuchi for the reasons noted above as to these independent claims. In addition, as each of Claims 7, 8, and 10 require that an input gate of the PLL circuit must receive the wobble enable signal from the system controller or system controller means along with the wobble signal and no such disclosure or suggestion of an input gate of the PLL circuit that receives such signals appears in Inokuchi. Consequently, these dependent claims patentably define over Inokuchi for this reason as well.

In light of the foregoing, it is believed that no other issues remain outstanding in this application, such that it is also believed that this application is clearly in condition for formal allowance. Accordingly, an early and favorable action to this effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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